point of view. I hold however a contrary opinion. With regard to
architecture, both ecclesiastical and domestic, much benefit has un-
doubtedly arisen from the awakened sense of the importance of that
study. Many of our art-manufactures have also profited by it; and I
am confident that much further improvement will result from its further
prosecution.

ANCIENT SEALS AND SEAL-RINGS.

The Rev. J. Graves called attention to the importance of ancient
Seals in a historical point of view; he stated that the usual form of
ecclesiastical seals of an ancient date was the acute oval, supposed to
represent the symbolical " Vesica piscis;" whilst lay communities and
individuals generally used the circular seal. However, in after times
the latter form was used indiscriminately both for lay and ecclesiastical
purposes. The Seal of the Chapter of St. Canice presented an example
of the acute oval form. Its device was a church with transepts and a
tower, beneath which was a crescent, round the edge the inscription :
† SIGILUM : ECCLESIE : SANCTI : CANICI : Impressions of this seal are
appended to documents of the early part of the thirteenth century,
preserved in the Record Room, Kilkenny Castle. The original brass
matrix was still preserved and used by the Dean and Chapter. In
the Royal Irish Academy Museum is a cast taken from a seal of Geofry
St. Leger, Bishop of Ossory, who died in 1287, and which was ap-
pended to a document preserved in the office of the Duchy of Lancaster.
Its device was a Bishop, and it bore the following inscription :—
† GALFRIDUS : DEI : GRACIA : OSSORIENSIS : EPISCOPUS :—The ancient
Seal of the Vicars choral of St Canice was not now in existence, having
shared the fate of their more ancient muniments. However, he had
been enabled to ascertain the form and device from an impression
appended to a lease of " Priests Mill" made in 1767 by the then Vi-
cars to Lewis Chapelier, and now in the possession of Mr. George
Kinchela, the present lessee; it was a small acutely-oval seal, bearing a
full length figure of the Virgin crowned, with the infant Jesus in her
arms. The impression being defective it was impossible to decypher
the inscription. An example of the circular ecclesiastical seal was pre-
sented by that of the Dean and Chapter of Leighlin. The matrix of
this seal was found some years since in a turf-bog near Clara Castle in
this County. It was purchased by the Rev. S. Madden, who presented
it to the late Dean of St. Patrick's, with whose collection it passed

into the possession of the Royal Irish Academy. It bore in two niches—
1. a Bishop robed, and mitred, with a crozier in his left hand; his right
held up in the act of blessing—2. a Priest bearing in his left hand the
sacramental wafer, to which he points with the right; round the edge
was this inscription:—"† SIGILLUM : CAPITULI: ECCLESIE: LECHLINEN-
SIS." This Seal probably belonged to the eleventh century. Mr. Graves
also exhibited a mutilated impression of an oval ecclesiastical Seal of
late date. It had been for a considerable time in the possession of the
Rev. Dr. Nolan, of Gowran, who stated in answer to his (the Rev.
Mr. Graves's) enquiries, that he had received it upwards of forty years
ago from some person connected with the Black Abbey in this city, with
the assurance that it was an impression of the common seal of that
monastery. The inscription was so much mutilated as to be illegible—
its device was the assumption of the Virgin, beneath which was a shield
with the arms of France and England quarterly.

With respect to lay seals, the Rev. Mr. Graves observed that the
seal of the Corporation of Kilkenny was too well known to require
description ; it is undoubtedly ancient, belonging most probably to the
fourteenth century, but the word " civitatis" had been substituted for
" ville" after Kilkenny was raised to the dignity of a city. Irishtown
had also its common seal. The matrix was unfortunately lost, but he
had seen a tolerably perfect impression appended to a document bear-
ing date in the year 1754. This document was in possession of the
last Portrieve, but has not been handed over to the Town Clerk along
with the other Corporation records. The seal was a large circular one,
bearing the device of a church; round the verge was the following in-
scription:—"† SIGILLUM: COMMUNE: CIVIUM: KILKE*** OSSORIE." A
portion of the inscription was illegible. This seal belonged to the
thirteenth century. The seal of the ancient Borough of Callan pre-
sented a late example of the circular common seal; it bore, on an
embattled and looped wall, three towers, and round the verge the fol-
lowing inscription:—"SIGILL. BUR. ET. COMUNITAT. VILLÆ. DE. CALLAN."
He should refer this seal to the latter part of the seventeenth century.
The original seal of the Master and Brethren of the Hospital of St.
Saviour, commonly known as the Ormonde Hospital, founded by
Thomas Earl of Ormonde, and incorporated by Royal charter in 1630,
was still in existence. It bore in a niche the figure of the Saviour in a
sitting posture, holding the globe, surmounted by a cross, in his left hand,
the right being raised in the attitude of blessing ; beneath is the Or-
monde crest, a falcon rising from a plume of feathers, and round the
verge this inscription.—"SIGILL. HOSP. SNI. SALVATOR. KILKEN. COS.
OR. & OSS." He had omitted to mention that the Mayor of Kilkenny
had a private seal of office; it was of silver, and although much worn,
was not very ancient, belonging probably to the seventeenth century.
It bore the castle triple-towered, like the common seal, but without
the De Clare Arms—viz., three chevrons gules—which occur on the

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latter; round the edge is the following inscription: " THE. SEALE. OFFICE. OF. MAYORALTY. FOR. KILKENNY." The use of the Privy Seal by the Chief Magistrate of Kilkenny was very ancient. He found by the Liber Primus of the Corporation that in the time of John Cros, Sovereign of Kilkenny (14th Ed. III., 1340) one Philip Tonker had a letter of exemption from the office of portrieve of St. John's-street, sealed with the *Privy Seal*, which letter was, in the year 1351, also sealed with the Great Seal, for which seal he paid forty shillings.

In addition to the various descriptions of seals already noticed, there was yet another branch of the subject which would afford matter for a large treatise—the use of private seals was very ancient, and a favourite form of seal was that composed of an engraved gem, of Grecian or Ro-man date, set in mediæval mountings, and often accompanied by an inscription ludicrously inapplicable to the subject. The acute oval was also frequently used, but chiefly by ecclesiastical persons. Of this form he possessed an impression taken from a matrix found within the pre-cincts of the Dominican Abbey in the city of Kilkenny; and which had been communicated to him, Mr. Graves, by the late Rev. Marcus Monck, Rector of Rathdowney. It bore for device a vine with two birds pecking at the clusters; round the edge, in the old Saxon letter, ran the following inscription—" DEO SERVIRE REGNUM EST ;" the seal was well executed and from the form of the letters it was probable that it belonged to the fourteenth century. About the year 1832, the matrix of a seal was found along with a quantity of corroded iron swords and spear heads, in the townland of Lisnamanagh or Blessingtown, Parish of Columbkill in this County. This seal came into the possession of the late Rev. Edward Cody P.P. Thomastown, who gave it to the late Mr. Anthony of Piltown; from his museum it probably passed to that of the late Dean Dawson; for we find it next in the museum of the Royal Irish Academy, amongst Dean Dawson's collection: in 1847 this matrix was exchanged by the council of the Academy with the late Mr. Staunton of Longbridge Warwickshire for the seal of a Bishop of Limerick. He, Mr. Graves, had been favoured by J. Staunton Esq. with an impression of the seal, which he had submitted to the Rev. P. Moore, who, having seen the matrix when in Mr. Cody's possession, at once recognized it. The seal was a large one of the oval form, it bore the date 1551 together with the letters T.F. and a figure of Edward the Confessor, beneath which was a shield charged with the arms of the Fyshers; round the edge was the inscription " SIGILLUM PECULIARIS JURISDICTIONIS DE FFYSHERS ITCHYNGTON." * It was difficult to account for a Warwickshire seal having been found in this locality. The armorial bearings of the individual frequently occur on private seals,

* Mr. Staunton conceives it to have been the seal of Thomas Fysher of Bishops Itchington, County of Warwick, for an account of whom see Dug-dale's Warwickshire, p. 349, Thomas's Edition.

and we also see the device form a rebus or riddle. Of this last description was a brass or bronze signet ring found in or near Kells Priory, and at present in the possession of Mrs. Perry, sen., of Newtown Park, County Dublin. The device on this seal seems to represent the truncated stem of a tree, with two lopped branches, one at either side ; and over it the word "*veri*" in Gothic letters. Mr. Graves observed that he had not been able to interpret this seal, and he had submitted it to several persons of skill in such matters, but without success. Another brass ring was found some years since amongst the ruins of Kells Priory, and is at present in the possession of the Rev. William Dobbyn, Clonmore Glebe, Pilltown ; by whose kindness this notice of its discovery was laid before the Society, together with a sketch of this interesting antique, full size. The hoop of the ring was of such large dimensions, being one inch diameter in the clear, that it seemed intended to be worn on the thumb. Mr. Dobbyn seemed to think that the letters on the signet were W.P.; but he (Mr. Graves) was of opinion that the last letter was the old or Lombardic form of the letter D, combined in a cypher with the W. which letter was ornamented above with three fleurs-de-lis. Mr. Graves exhibited a silver matrix of a seal found in the cleft of a rock on the school-house lands of Ballyroan in the Queen's County; it bore an armorial device of a tree, over which was a demy savage man as crest. It was of modern date, and perhaps belonged to the latter end of the seventeenth century. Mr. Cooke, of Parsonstown, also forwarded for exhibition the seal of O'Kenedy, of Ormond, in the County Tipperary. It bore a rude representation of a bird, and round the edge the legend, "SIGILLVM. DONATI. O KENEDIG." The form of the letters refer the date of this seal to the fourteenth century.

MISCELLANEOUS ANTIQUITIES.

The Rev. Mr. Graves exhibited a large ecclesiastical banner, which had been recently discovered in Kilkenny under very curious circumstances. Not long since the present lessee of the old house of the Rothe family in Coal-market, alluded to in the article on Street Architecture, had occasion to take down one of the partitions. On the removal of the external wainscot, and between it and the studding, was discovered a green silk banner folded up into a small compass, and in excellent preservation. It measures four feet ten inches long, by three feet four inches wide, is bordered with variegated silk fringe and has a list running across the top, whereby it was attached to the cross on which it was carried; on one side is painted the coronation of the Vir-

ADDENDA ET CORRIGENDA.

——◆——

Page 8, line 22, for *Richard Purcell O'Gorman* read *Nicholas Purcell O'Gorman.*

Page 17, lines 32 and 36, for *carn* read *cairn.*

Page 18, lines 11 and 16, for *carn* read *cairn.*

   Ib.,   line 41, for *outstriped* read *outstripped.*

Page 19, line 18, for *hand* read *hands.*

Page 21, line 10, for *carn* read *cairn.*

Page 24, line 15, for *was* read *were.*

Page 29, line 15, after *eighteen,* add *to two feet six by twelve.*

Page 48, line 3, for *santi* read *sancti.*

Page 55, line 27, for *intermarrige* read *intermarriage.*

Page 63, lines 23 and 27, strike out the comma after *prosapia* and *colligendum.*

Page 64, line 28, for *consequenee* read *consequence.*

Page 76, line 25, after *grantee of the crown,* add—*Indeed with regard to the Lucas Archer referred to by Mr. Cooke, he was not recognised by the crown, neither did he reside at Holy Cross, as appears by the following extract from the Regal Visitation of* 1615 *(Library R. I. Academy):*—*" Sir Lucas Archer, Titular Abbott of the Holy Crosse, and the Pope's Vicar-Generall of the Diocesse of Ossory, Archdeacon of the same, dwelling at Kilkenny."*

Page 80, line 41, for *Epipheny* read *Epiphany.*

   Ib.,   line 43, for *assencion* read *ascension.*

Page 89, line 15, after *quarterly,* add—*From a perfect impression of this seal, obtained from Mr. A. Murphy, King-street, Kilkenny, it appeared that the inscription was as follows—SIGILLVM. GARGIANI. GBVWVCESIS.—the meaning of which was very obscure ; it appeared, however, to have no reference to the Dominican Abbey. The inscription was in Lombardic characters, and the seal seemed to be of the fifteenth century.*

Page 90, line 13, for *mountings* read *mounting.*

Page 91, line 27, for *refer* read *refers.*